

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /024 R

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB-VLTOMSETH:MFG

APPROVED BY EA MR MILLER

S/S-O:PSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126910 TOSEC 020173

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK'S 9730 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SECDEF

CINCPAC COMUSMACTHAI DTD 28 MAY 75

QUOTE:

S E C R E T BANGKOK 9730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR,TH

SUBJ: U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND: PUBLIC AFFAIRS

REF: BANGKOK 9539

1. JOINT US-THAI WORKING GROUP MEETING ON CURRENT PHASE OF
FORCE REDUCTIONS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2 (REFTEL).
THIS MEETING WILL RESULT IN PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBING CUTS
AGREED TO.

2. SOON THEREAFTER, ADDITIONAL CUTS TOTALING
4,000 SPACES WILL HAVE TO BE AGREED UPON AND ANNOUNCED IN
ORDER TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENT TO CUT 7,500 SPACES BY
ABOUT JUNE 30.

3. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT YET INFORMED WHERE THE ADDITIONAL
4,000 SPACES ARE TO COME FROM, WE NOTE THAT THIS NUMBER COULD
BE REACHED SIMPLY BY ABOLISHING EXISTING UNFILLED SPACES.

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IF THIS IS INDEED WHAT WASHINGTON CONTEMPLATES, SEPARATE

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THEREOF WILL GIVE US SERIOUS PUBLIC RELATION PROBLEM. REDUCTION OF 4,000 "GHOST" TROOPS WILL NOT ONLY LACK IMPACT, BUT WILL BE WIDELY PERCEIVED IN THAILAND AS SHELL GAME. DESPITE ALL EFFORTS, THAI CONFUSE AUTHORIZED SPACES WITH PHYSICAL BODIES, AND IT WILL BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVINCE THEM THAT WE ARE NOT PLAYING SOME KIND OF TRICK WITH MIRRORS.

4. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS, WE SHOULD ANNOUNCE ENTIRE REDUCTION OF 7,500 AT THE SAME TIME WE ANNOUNCE DRAWDOWN OF F-11'S AND B-52'S AND CLOSURE OF Ubon. THIS SHOULD BE DONE UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL PART OF 4,000 SPACES NOT YET ACCOUNTED FOR IN DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS WILL CONSIST OF ACTUAL UNITS AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST WE BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY WHETHER ALL OR MOST OF UNACCOUNTED FOR 4,000 SPACES WILL CONSIST OF CURRENTLY UNFILLED SPACES, AND IF SO, REQUEST WE BE AUTHORIZED TO HANDLE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AS DISCUSSED ABOVE.
WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLICIES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, TOSEC 020173
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE126910
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VL TOMSETH:MFG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750190-0649
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975051/aaaaaaasg.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BANGKOK 9539
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND: PUBLIC AFFAIRS
TAGS: MARR, TH, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006